



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

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REPRESENTATIVE PHILIP MILLER
THIRTY SIXTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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MEMBER
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

To: The Planning and Development Committee
From: Representative Philip Miller, 36th district

Re: HB-5155

Senators Coleman and Cassano, Representatives Gentile and Grogins and esteemed members of Planning and Development,

I appear before you today to humbly and respectfully ask your consideration of the proposed rollbacks of integrated pest management standards.

As a lifelong naturalist, I ask you to see the value of using old school methods, sustainable soil amendment by compost, organic and natural substances.

Chemicals in combinations and concentrations not found in the natural world expose us, and our young people, who use athletic fields and parks, to toxicity and unknown long term effects. By this point in time, we have the know how and resources to use time honored and sustainable methods, and I speak this from experience. As a former four term First Selectman of a well regarded municipality, Essex, I helped our citizens implement the phase out of petro chemical fertilizers and pesticides and herbicides, before these standards became law in some instances. We began and have continued to this day manufacture of leaf compost, used to amend and strengthen soils, and to allow the most beneficial grasses to thrive. Other organic treatments have included corn gluten, to control Japanese beetle infestations, choice, non GMO grass seed, and most importantly, good human stewardship, including broadcasting compost on playing fields and park lawns, for sustained release of nutrients into the soil. This is natural and altogether appropriate, and worthy of our esteemed citizenry.

There are other towns that have greatly succeeded in using natural and sustainable practices. The lovely town of Cheshire, for example, which continues a great tradition of champion athletic teams, and beautiful parks and fields, has been a leader of the highest distinction, having facilities which are cared for in natural and sustainable manner.

I would acknowledge that in this post recession economy, some municipalities have been financially distressed to the point that some maintenance has been deferred. What is sometimes insinuated about newer methods being more expensive and not as effective as the former chemical regimen is exposed by hundreds of successful practitioners using good healthy practice.

We have the resources and knowledge, in many cases considered "old school", to succeed, in having great facilities for our towns and cities, schools and neighborhoods.

Please say yes to a sustainable regimen of positive practice. Please refrain from buying the line which would have us go backwards in resuming and rolling back to what could be harmful practice here, where we always think to positive outcome.

Thank you for your consideration.